

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB. 18, 1863.

These words of the Hon. Secretary, we commend to our readers who have any thought of planting cotton this year. We do not need the cotton, we must have supplies of grain and forage. Why, in the face of facts like these stated by the Secretary of War in his report, will any of our people plant cotton? Every acre of ground in the Confederacy ought to be devoted to the production of grain, forage and vegetables. We can add nothing to the pointed argument of the Secretary. Our views have been given freely on this subject time and again, and now we lend them, confirmed by Mr. Sedden's report. • After the many glorious battles which have been fought, are our people going to see the army destitute of an abundant supply, merely that they may make a million or two bales of cotton, which will be of no use to them after it is made, until the war is ended? If they think the war is going to end in a few months, and then they can sell their cotton at a high price, let them cast away this delusion. The course they are pursuing is the very best way to cause the war to be protracted. Let no cotton be planted and all our land be devoted to the culture of grain and forage, and this fact when made known, will do as much to cause a termination of the war as any other one thing, and if it does not bring the war to a close, will enable us to prosecute it with more ability. We hope the Southern press will turn their attention to this subject, and warn the people in time. There is danger that too much of our labor will be devoted to the raising of cotton this year, but it is a danger that can be avoided by timely discussion. We have done our duty, and we intend to continue to warn our countrymen of the folly of planting cotton this year, and if they will still persist in their determination to do so, the fault will not be ours. Soon the time will be at hand for planting vegetables. Let this be done in abundance. The army needs them for health and subsistence. Too many cannot be raised. All the Irish and Sweet potatoes that can be gotten ought to be planted. If we are blessed with propitious seasons, let us try to make enough to supply our army and our people abundantly, and then have something to spare.

These are our views, and we ask for them the attention which we think the importance of the subject demands.

"The most startling reports daily reach us of outrages by our soldiers all along the line of the Memphis and Charleston railroad. The Seventh Kansas regiment of cavalry are particularly mentioned as the perpetrators of outrages for which their officers ought to be dismissed from the service. Fences are pulled down and burned, hogs, cattle and fowls killed, horses and mules stolen, houses burned, and pillage and rapine are their common, every day pursuits. Even ladies have had their clothes on their persons thrown over their heads, on the pretext that they had money on their persons which they would not give up. Such desolation as has followed in their tracks in West Tennessee can never be adequately shadowed forth in words. It has to be seen to be appreciated. Officers who fail to command their men are guilty, and should be made to suffer.

222. The Emperor of the French is said to be earnestly engaged, through the medium of the Paris ministerial journals, in manufacturing a public sentiment favorable to French intervention in American affairs.

that when Spring comes, if it does not bring peace, they will all go home. Of course we cannot tell how much truth there is in these statements, but it is singular that all these elements, coming at different times, and representing many regiments and States, should all tell the same stories. They also state that they came here this time with full purpose of opening their famous canal; and every evidence goes to confirm this report, but they have originally failed, and have about concluded to give it up as an unprofitable job; and every evidence goes to confirm this report. Indeed, it is now quite evident that the Father of Waters will not leave his old beaten track to accommodate all vandalism. So far from ran-

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Edwards, G. J. Jan. 21, 1963. [Heb 10:3m.]